

REMARKS

Claims 23, 28, 31-32, and 34-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kurauchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,323,921). In response, Applicants amended independent claim 23 to clarify that the resin layer is made of photosensitive acrylic resin configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal, and respectfully traverse the rejection because Kurauchi fails to disclose (or suggest) photosensitive acrylic resin that is configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal.

Claim 23 is now amended to clarify that the columnar spacer has laminated resin layers including a resin color filter layer, and a resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin. The resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin is configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal. Applicants respectfully submit that Kurauchi fails to disclose or suggest the columnar spacer having these features, and in particular a resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin and that is configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal.

Instead, as shown in FIG. 1 of Kurauchi, a light shielding film 4c has colored layers 6c, 7c, and 8d stacked thereon, respectfully. Additionally, an electrode film 10 consisting of indium tin oxide is formed on the entire surface. (See col. 5, lns. 60-61 of Kurauchi). Accordingly, assuming *arguendo* that the color layers 6c, 7c, and 8d correspond to the color filter layer of the present invention, and the light shielding film 4c corresponds to the resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin, the light shielding film 4c is not in contact with the liquid crystal, as now recited in amended claim 23. Additionally, even if the color filter layers 6c, 7c, and 8d contact with liquid crystal by

combining the features of FIGs. 1 and 5c, Kurauchi still fails to disclose or suggest a light shielding film 4c that is in contact with the liquid crystal. For this reason, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

In addition to the above, Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 35 because Kurauchi fails to disclose or suggest a resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin that has a width that is approximately equal to a width of the resin color filter layer. Assuming *arguendo* that the light shielding film 4c corresponds to the resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin of the present invention, this light shielding film does not have a width that is approximately equal to a width of the resin color filter layer (i.e., the layers 6c, 7c, and 8d of Kurauchi). For this additional reason, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of claim 35 is respectfully requested.

Claims 25 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi in view of Kadota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,550). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 23.

Kadota is merely cited by the Examiner for disclosing that a second substrate can be thinner than a first substrate, and therefore it would be obvious to form an upper surface or display side thinner in order to reduce birefringence on an LCD display side. However, Kadota fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kurauchi, namely, that a resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin is configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal. For this reason, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 25 and 33 is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi in view of Kurematsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,318). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 23.

Kurematsu is merely cited by the Examiner for disclosing that alkaline glass can be formed in an LCD device. Kurematsu is also cited for employing and alkaline substrate for cost efficiency. Kurematsu fails to disclose or suggest a resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin that is configured to be in contact with the liquid crystal layer. Since Kurematsu fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kurauchi, any combination of the references is also deficient. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 26-27 is respectfully requested.


New claim 36 is added and further defines the liquid crystal display as having an alignment regulating structure for regulating the alignment of the liquid crystal, and wherein the resin layer made of photosensitive acrylic resin is made from a same material as the alignment regulating structure. Support for this amendment can be found in Applicants' Specification on page 33, line 28 to page 34, line 2. Applicants respectfully submit that Kurauchi fails to disclose or suggest an alignment regulating structure. Kurauchi fails to disclose or suggest a light shielding film 4c made of the same material as an alignment regulating structure. Accordingly, for this reason, and also for the reasons provided above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 23, Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of new claim 36.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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